

**TIPSS-2 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
FINAL RFP NO. TIRNO-99-R-00009
DECEMBER 27, 1999**

1. When will oral presentations take place? Will they now be 90 days or more after the new proposal due date of 2/15/00?

ANSWER: See the Answer to Question No. 15 in the October 7, 1999 Question and Answer Report found under Amendment 0001. Any oral presentations of management approach (see RFP Sections M.8.4.3.2, L.12.4.2, and J.3) for the Small Business Set-Aside (SBSA) portion of the procurement will not take place earlier than 90 calendar days after those proposals were delivered on November 4, 1999. The IRS will notify Offerors for the Full and Open Competition (F&OC) portion of the procurement on or about February 29, 2000 about the timing of the oral presentations. We expect to provide at least 20 calendar days notice in advance of the timeframe for these presentations.

2. It appears that parts of the CMM requirement in J.9.3 and J.9.4 that were deleted by Amendment #1 are now back in the RFP.

ANSWER: The electronic copy of Amendment #1 posted on the webpage has strike-outs that inadvertently removed more than what was intended. What you see in Amendment#3 is the requirement for CMM.

3. Can we revise our proposals? Can we provide new references for past performance? There had been a deadline for offerors to submit information to Dun and Bradstreet. Is there a new deadline for anyone who now decides to submit a proposal.

ANSWER: As stated in Amendment No. 0003, offerors for the F&OC portion of the RFP can revise their proposals. We want you to notify us of any intended revision when you acknowledge receipt of the amendment. In revising your proposal, you must follow the RFP instructions for proposal content. Additional past performance references can be supplied for the F&OC if the offeror did not previously provide the number stated in the RFP's Section L.12.3.2.1. See Amendment No. 0004 for a revision to the RFP's instruction in L.12.3.2 with a new deadline of February 4, 2000 for any new F&OC offerors to order past performance information collection and reports. Also, please note that Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) attempted to collect past performance information from the selected number of references stated in L.12.3.2.1 and L.12.3.2 for each Task Area proposed by the offeror. D&B made at least two attempts to collect the information from each of the selected number of references.

4. Is there a change in the contract award date or the June 1 date for pricing assumptions?

ANSWER: No, not at this time.

5. Section M.8.2 states that CMM Level 2 compliance will be on a pass/fail basis and that those eliminated from the competition in the area will be notified promptly by the Government. Will compliance be evaluated and will the initial offerors be notified prior to the new February 15, 2000 proposal due date? If not, when will the results of this evaluation be released? Will the Government engage in exchanges with the initial offerors as contemplated by Section M.7 prior to the revised proposal due date?

Answer: As stated in the Notice dated December 10, 1999, transmitting Amendment No. 0003: "All Offerors who previously submitted proposals for the F&OC portion of the RFP may revise their proposals by the new proposal due date of February 15, 2000. Please notify us when you acknowledge this Amendment No. 0003 whether your proposal is being revised." The pre-award

software development CMM compliance evaluation will now be completed for the F&OC proposals after February 15, 2000. The results will be released shortly after this evaluation is completed. All F&OC Offerors will be notified at the same time. At this time, the Government will not engage in exchanges with Offerors who previously submitted proposals for the full and open competition because that portion of the RFP has been re-opened.

6. Ref. RFP Section J, Paragraph J.9.2, Page J9-2. This vendor noticed the fifth bullet in the referenced paragraph has been reinserted into the RFP. This language was originally in the RFP and deleted in Amendment One. Therefore, there was no need to address the requirement in our proposal.

The most efficient way to support this requirement is to augment our proposal with a change page inclusive of change bars to the proposal. Is this approach agreeable?

Answer: The deletion of that text in Amendment No. 0001 was a mistake, and it was corrected in Amendment No. 0003. See Amendment No. 0004 with instructions for proposal amendments.

7. How does the IRS plan to manage revisions to proposals submitted on October 28, 1999? This offeror recommends that the Government accept change pages only, with the new pages having a notation in the header (1) identifying the page as a change page and (2) stating the date of the change, e.g.: "Change Page - February 15, 2000". For changes that exceed the existing page length, the page number on the overrun page should be noted with an alpha identifier (e.g., the overrun page after Page 4-3 would be Page 4-3a, followed by the unchanged Page 4-4. The Government would insert these change pages prior to proposal evaluation. Is this procedure acceptable?

Answer: See Amendment No. 0004 with instructions for proposal amendments. Offerors who previously submitted proposals for the F&OC portion of the RFP and who wish to now amend their proposals should not make a complete resubmission of the proposals.